

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /015 W
-----067232 030508Z /14-R
R 022048Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2746
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03079

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, UNGA
SUBJECT: U.S. ROLE IN STRENGTHENING THE HUMAN
RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE UN

REFS: (A) GENEVA 09185, (B) GENEVA 10987,
(C) STATE 188597, (D) GENEVA 11635

1. BASED ON REFTELS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH DEPARTMENT,
IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS A LARGE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT
AMONG DEPARTMENT, GENEVA, AND USUN ON FOLLOWING:

- --THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION (HRD) NEEDS TO BE
STRENGTHENED TO MEET ITS EXISTING RESPONSIBILITIES,
AND THIS PREFERABLY SHOULD NOT WAIT UPON THE COMPLETION
OF THE 32/130 "OVERALL ANALYSIS."
- --THERE IS SOME DEAD WOOD ON THE HRD STAFF
THAT NEEDS TO BE CUT, IF POSSIBLE.
- --THERE SHOULD BE A SECOND LIAISON OFFICER IN
NEW YORK TO ASSIST PAPADEMAS.
- --THE QUESTION OF REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD
OFFICERS, ESPECIALLY TO PROMOTE ADVISORY SERVICES AND
TECHNICAL CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENTS, SHOULD BE
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EXAMINED.

- --THE ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAM NEEDS TO BE
STRENGTHENED.
- --THERE SHOULD BE A SEPARATE BUDGET ITEM TO
FUND HUMAN RIGHTS MISSIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE HUMAN

RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC), SO THESE FUNDS WILL NOT HAVE TO COME OUT OF THE REGULAR BUDGET OF THE HRD.

- --WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE VAN BOVEN TO CONTINUE AS DIRECTOR; REPLACEMENT AT THE END OF HIS FIRST TWO-YEAR CONTRACT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO HRD MORALE, AND HE MIGHT WELL BE REPLACED BY SOMEONE LESS LIKELY TO MAINTAIN THE EQUALITY OF ALL CATEGORIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. USUN, LIKE GENEVA, HAS BEEN DISCREETLY TALKING TO SEVERAL LIKE-MINDED REPS, AND TO SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT STAFF WHO HAVE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY OR EXPERTISE IN THIS AREA. WE HAVE CIRCULATED, ON A LIMITED BASIS, A TENTATIVE DRAFT RESOLUTION AS DISCUSSED IN DEPARTMENT (POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND GENEVA) ON STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION, FOR POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS FALL. TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION AND TO TEST THE IDEA, WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMING A CONTACT GROUP OF COMMITTEE 3 AND COMMITTEE 5 REPS FROM FIVE OR SIX KEY NATIONS IN MID-SEPTEMBER IF AT THAT TIME THE PROPOSAL LOOKS VIABLE FOR PRESENTATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WE HAVE IN MIND AS MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP CANADA, BELGIUM, A NORDIC, SENEGAL, JAPAN, NIGERIA
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OR ANOTHER ENGLISH-SPEAKING AFRICAN, AND VENEZUELA OR COLOMBIA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS IDEA. OUR OBJECTIVE BETWEEN NOW AND MID-SEPTEMBER IS TO DEVELOP MORE PRECISELY WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE HRD AND HOW BEST TO APPROACH THE WHOLE PROBLEM. WE MAY ALL AGREE THAT THOUGH THE HRD NEEDS STRENGTHENING, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR IS THE WRONG PLACE AND TIME TO TRY TO DO IT. PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS WITH OTHER PARTIES, AND CONSULTATIONS AMONG OURSELVES, WILL HELP CLARIFY THE TACTICAL PROS AND CONS AS WELL AS THE SPECIFICS OF THE PROPOSAL ITSELF.

3. SEVERAL IDEAS FOR STRENGTHENING THE HRD THAT NEED FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING ARE THE FOLLOWING:

- --DOES THE HRD NEED ADDITIONAL JUNIOR-LEVEL LAWYERS TO ASSIST IN THE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT? IF SO, HOW MANY?

- --ARE THERE SUFFICIENT JUNIOR-LEVEL LAWYERS ASSIGNED TO THE RECENTLY EXPANDED TASK OF MONITORING

THE NEWLY-RATIFIED INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
INSTRUMENTS?

- --WHAT SORT OF ADDITIONAL COMPUTER SERVICES
DOES THE HRD NEED TO FUNCTION MORE ADEQUATELY?
- --SHOULD THE REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD
OFFICERS BE LOCATED AT THE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF
THE UNHCR OR AT THE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03079

ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS? OR, SOMEWHERE ELSE?

- --HOW MANY OFFICERS TO REVIEW HUMAN
RIGHTS CASES (AND CONDUCT INTERVIEWS) DOES THE HRD
NEED?
- --HOW CAN THE ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAM BEST
BE STRENGTHENED? IS THE MULTIPLICATION OF MORE
SEMINARS, WITH THE SAME PARTICIPANTS FROM THE HRC-
THIRD COMMITTEE CLUB, REALLY EFFECTIVE?
- --WHAT, IF ANY, EFFECTIVE ACTION CAN THE U.S.
TAKE OR SUPPORT TOWARD ELIMINATION OF DEAD WOOD IN HRD?
- --IS IT PRACTICAL TO THINK IN TERMS OF MOVING
THE HRD BACK TO NEW YORK, OR SHOULD WE CONCENTRATE
ON OBTAINING AN ADDITIONAL NEW YORK LIAISON OFFICER?
- --SHOULD ANY PROPOSAL ON STRENGTHENING THE HRD
BE SUBMITTED AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY? WOULD SUCH A PROPOSAL
BE POLITICALLY VIABLE? WOULD IT BE BETTER TO WAIT
UNTIL ECOSOC?
- --SHOULD THE SYG BE REQUESTED TO HAVE THE UN

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT SERVICES MAKE A STUDY OF
THE HRD?

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4. ON THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS USUN WILL CONTINUE
TO SEEK OPINIONS AND INFORMATION, AND WOULD APPRECIATE
COMMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND GENEVA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN03079
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780317-0699
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808105/aaaadkbn.tel
Line Count: 183
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 812b0358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 GENEVA 9185, 78 GENEVA 10987, 78 STATE 188597, 78 GENEVA 11635
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1554759
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. ROLE IN STRENGTHENING THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE UN
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/812b0358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014